

Appl. No. : 09/989,893
Filed : November 19, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

Claims 1 - 4 (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) A mail bag assembly comprising a mail bag having an edge region defining an open end of the bag and a plurality of hooks, each hook comprising:

a planar attachment portion for attachment to the mail bag, the attachment portion defining a longitudinal axis;

a planar supporting portion which extends from the attachment portion in a direction of the longitudinal axis and which is generally coplanar with the attachment portion, the supporting portion defining an aperture therethrough; and

a retaining portion which extends in a plane of the supporting portion and which partially occludes the aperture of the supporting portion, the retaining portion being resiliently deformable out of the plane of the supporting portion wherein the longitudinal axis of each hook is substantially perpendicular to the edge region of the bag.

6. (Original) The assembly of claim 5, wherein the supporting portion defines a continuous boundary around the aperture.

7. (Original) The assembly of claim 5, wherein the supporting portion is elongate and extends from a base portion connected with the attachment portion to a tip portion, thereby defining an elongate aperture.

8. (Original) The assembly of claim 7, wherein the retaining portion extends from the base portion towards the tip portion.

9. (Previously presented) A mail bag hook assembly adapted for removably attaching a mail bag having an edge to a mail bag support, the support including compoundly curved locating projections, the assembly comprising:

an attachment portion adapted for fixed attachment to the mail bag, the attachment portion extending along a generally vertical axis so as to extend substantially perpendicular to the edge of the mail bag;

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an annular supporting portion which extends from the attachment portion generally along the vertical axis and which is generally coplanar with the attachment portion, the supporting portion defining an aperture therethrough; and

a resilient retaining portion which extends in a plane of the supporting portion so as to partially occlude the aperture of the supporting portion and, in an unstressed condition, to extend substantially coplanar with the supporting portion and so as to be resilient deformable out of the plane of the supporting portion under applied force such that, in an attached condition, the retaining portion is in a first stressed condition and wherein movement of the assembly to a detached condition while maintaining general alignment of the assembly along the vertical axis induces greater second stressed conditions so as to inhibit displacement of the assembly from the mail bag support.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) A mail bag hook for removably attaching a mail bag to a mail bag support, the support including locating projections, the mail bag hook comprising:

an attachment portion for fixed attachment to the mail bag, the attachment portion extending in a plane;

a co-planar supporting portion which extends from the attachment portion in the same plane, the supporting portion defining an aperture therethrough; and

a resilient retaining portion which extends substantially coplanar with the supporting portion in an unstressed condition, so as to partially occlude the aperture of the supporting portion, said resilient retaining portion being resiliently deformable away from the plane of the supporting portion under applied force such that, in an attached condition at least one of the locating projections passes through the aperture to attach the resilient retaining portion to the support, the retaining portion being in a first stressed condition wherein movement of the assembly to a detached condition while maintaining general alignment of the assembly along the vertical axis induces greater second stressed conditions so as to inhibit displacement of the assembly from the mail bag support.

12. (Previously presented) A mail bag hook assembly attached to a mail bag having an edge for removable attachment to a mail bag support, the support including locating projections, the assembly comprising:

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an attachment portion attached to the mail bag, the attachment portion extending upwardly, and away from the edge of the mail bag;

a supporting portion which extends from the attachment portion, the supporting portion defining an aperture therethrough; and

a resilient retaining portion above the edge of the bag partially occluding the aperture of the supporting portion in an unstressed condition, said resilient retaining portion being resiliently deformable away from the plane of the supporting portion under applied force such that, in an attached condition, the retaining portion is in a first stressed condition and wherein movement of the assembly to a detached condition while maintaining general alignment of the assembly along the vertical axis induces greater second stressed conditions so as to inhibit displacement of the assembly from the mail bag support.

13. (New) The mail bag hook of claim 11, wherein the supporting portion defines a continuous boundary around the aperture.

14. (New) The mail bag hook of claim 11, wherein the supporting portion is elongate and extends from a base portion connected with the attachment portion to a tip portion, thereby defining an elongate aperture.

15. (New) The mail bag hook of claim 14, wherein the retaining portion extends from the base portion towards the tip portion.